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Application No. 09/918,047
Amendment dated March 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 15, 2004

Docket No. 1232-4745

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 4 are independent. Claims 3 and 6 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent forms. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are rejected. By this amendment, claims 1-6 are amended. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,285,441 to Takahara ("Takahara").

Independent claims 1 and 4 have been amended for further clarification. In particular, amended claim 1 recites "a biasing member, provided between the image reading unit and said holding member at only one of the two regions, for biasing the image reading unit toward the original table at only one of the two regions." Amended claim 1 further recites that "wherein one region of the image reading unit provided with said biasing member is supported to be movable perpendicularly by said holding member." Independent claim 4 has been amended in a similar way to claim 1. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, at page 10, line 17 through page 12, line 12 of the original specification.

One of the aspects of the present invention is biasing only one of the two regions of the image reading unit toward the original table through the lever operation of the guide shaft to the holding member. Referring to Fig. 2 of the original specification, the support shaft 11a side of

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the reading unit 11 is biased by the biasing force of the spring 15 toward the original glass table 10 indicated as arrow C. Meanwhile, the sensor holder 12 receives a downward reaction force from the reading unit 11 indicated as arrow D. This reaction force pushes up the sensor support 12b at the other end of the sensor holder 12 by the lever operation of the guide rail 14 to the sensor holder 12. Subsequently, the sensor holder 12 pushes up the image reading unit 11 toward the original glass table 10 indicated as arrow E.

The arrangement as discussed above enables that the postures of the image reading unit and the sensor holder are uniquely determined so that a uniform urging pressure is obtained on the right and left sides of the image reading unit. See, also, page 10, line 18 through page 12, line 1 of the original specification.

In contrast, Takahara's image sensor unit has the coil springs 7a and 7b on both side of the line sensor unit 2 as shown in Fig. 3. The two springs push the line sensor unit toward the original holding glass member 1 on both side. A portion of Takahara states:

During the running of the belt 55, the line sensor unit 2 is biased towards the original holding glass member 1 by coil springs 7a and 7b, ... On the other hand, the unit-holding member 4 is biased towards the guide bar 6 by the reaction force of the coil springs 7a and 7b. Col. 5, lines 44-57.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that each of claims 1 and 4 as amended is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Takahara for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Applicants have not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicants submit that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are

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in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicants however reserve the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

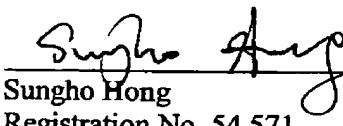
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An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: March 14, 2005

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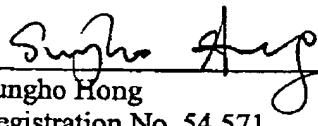
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